Involvement of Police Officers in Illegal Activities

337. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Police Officers are involved in various kind of illegal activities;

(b) if so, how many Police Officials have been suspended during the last two years on account of extortion, black-mailing, harassment to public and other crimes in the NCT of Delhi; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ensure law-makers do not act as law-breakers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Instances of reported involvement of police officers in illegal activities, such as harassment to public and other crimes are received by the Government from time to time.

(b) As per formation furnished by the Office of the Commissioner of Police, Delhi, the number of Police personnel suspended for extortion/blackmailing, etc. is as follows:

	1999	2000
Extortion	27	25
Blackmailing	1	Nil
Harassment to Public	17	29
Other crimes	198	232
TOTAL:	243	286

(c) "Police" is State subject as per the Constitution of India and, therefore, it is the State Governments which have to take necessary steps to ensure that Police authorities refrain from involving themselves in illegal activities. The Central Government has also

been issuing advisories to the State Governments from time to time to ensure that police officials do not abuse their authority and their conduct instills confidence in the minds of the public.

Bride burning cases in the Country

†338. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many cases of bride burning from various parts of the country have come to light;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to take effective steps to check this practice; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, in what manner Government propose to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the VIIth Schedule to the Constitution of India. The registration investigation, detection as well as prevention of crimes including crime against women is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. Hence, State Governments/Union Territories are required to take necessary action on the cases of violence under the Dowry Prohibition Act and under the relevant provisions of the IPC/ CrPC.

The Central Government has from time to time advised the State Governments and the Union Territories to take preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures needed in conncetion with atrocities on women. These measures include the appointment of Dowry Prohibition officers, setting up of separate women's cells in police stations, wider recruitment of women police officers, gender sensitisation of police personnel, setting up of district level Committee for the protection of women's rights etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.